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December 15, 2014

To: Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Mayor
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Don Knabe

From: Sachi A. Hamai 
Interim Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors
HILDA L. SOLIS
First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Second District

SHEILA KUEHL
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

WASHINGTON, D.C. UPDATE - FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2015 APPROPRIATIONS

This memorandum is to provide the Board with an update on H.R. 83, the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, which funds all Federal discretionary programs and activities through the end of Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2015 except for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), which only would be funded through February 27, 2015. On December 13, 2014, the Senate passed H.R. 83 on a 56 to 40 vote, sending it to the President, who has indicated that he would sign it into law. The House previously passed the bill on a 219 to 206 vote on December 11, 2014.

Since FFY 2015 began on October 1, 2014, Federal operations have been temporarily funded under a Continuing Resolution (CR), through December 11, 2014, because Congress has not enacted any of the 12 FFY 2015 appropriations bills. Last week, to avoid a government shutdown before H.R. 83 is enacted, Congress enacted two short-term CRs with the most recent one lasting through December 17, 2014.

H.R. 83 is nicknamed the "cromnibus" bill because it consolidates 11 FFY 2015 appropriations bills into an omnibus appropriations bill, but temporarily funds DHS through a short-term CR. It is widely reported that Congressional Republicans strongly oppose the President's recent executive actions on immigration, especially those which would provide many undocumented immigrants with administrative relief from deportation. By not funding DHS through the end of the fiscal year, FFY 2015 DHS

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appropriations legislation potentially can be used as a vehicle for blocking the President's immigration executive actions after Republicans take control of both houses in the new 114th Congress, which will convene in January 2015.

Based on our review of the 1,603 page "cromnibus" appropriation bill, all of the discretionary grant programs of County interest would be funded in FFY 2015 at or near their prior year funding levels with a few exceptions described below.

One most notable exception is that funding for trafficking victim services, administered by the Department of Justice (DOJ), would triple from \$14,250,000 in FFY 2014 to \$42,250,000 in FFY 2015. Moreover, the bill includes language, requested by the County through Senator Feinstein who serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee, which authorizes this funding to be used for victim services programs authorized by Public Law 113-4, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (VAWA) of 2013. This is important because VAWA established a new program authorizing child sex trafficking grants of \$1,500,000 to \$2,000,000, which would be awarded competitively, to four state or local governments that have significant criminal activity involving sex trafficking of minors and demonstrated multi-agency cooperation in combatting such trafficking -- criteria which the County meets. These grants, which can be renewed three times, may be used to fund a wide range of services to child sex trafficking victims, specialized training, and outreach and education programs. The bill does not specify how the \$42,250,000 would be allocated among allowable grants and activities. However, accompanying report language directs DOJ to consult with stakeholders in determining the overall allocation of this funding.

The other exceptions are that the bill would reduce funding for the HOME Investment Partnerships Program from \$1,000,000,000 to \$900,000,000 in FFY 2015, and Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grants from \$600,000,000 to \$500,000,000. However, the previous House-passed FFY 2015 Transportation-Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill (H.R. 4745) would have reduced funding for HOME to \$700,000,000 and TIGER grants to \$100,000,000.

Other provisions of County interest in H.R. 83 include the following:

- The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program, which funds CalWORKs in California, would be extended through September 30, 2015. Its authorization originally expired at the end of FFY 2015, but Congress has since temporarily extended it many times, most recently under the current CR through December 11, 2014. California alone receives an annual TANF allocation of approximately \$3.66 billion;

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- County-supported language is included to exempt the County from the requirement that public housing or Section 8 tenants be represented on the governing board of the County's Housing Authority, similar to language included in prior years' appropriations bills; and
- Army Corps of Engineers funding is provided for the operation and maintenance of the Los Angeles County Drainage Area (\$5,884,000) and the continuing studies of the California Coastal Sediment Master Plan (\$449,000) and Arroyo Seco Watershed (\$450,000).

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:RA
MR:MT:gl

c: All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist